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2 1. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] In the j-laying of a pipeline from an offshore
3 floating vessel, the method for raising a pipe section from a horizontal position
4 proximate the deck of said floating vessel to alignment with a mast for being connected
5 to the end of the pipeline, comprising

6 providing a main support arm which is pivoted from proximately a horizontal
7 position to a position proximately parallel to said mast,

8 providing a rotational axis mounted on said main support arm,

9 providing grabbers mounted on said rotational axis,

10 engaging said pipe section proximate said deck,

11 rotating said grabbers about the center of said rotational axis from a position below
12 said rotational axis to a second position above said rotational axis,

13 pivoting said main support arm and said pipe section to a position proximately
14 parallel to said mast, and

15 extending said pipe section away from said rotational axis in a radial direction to
16 said mast.

17 2. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] The method of claim 1, further comprising extending
18 said grabbers to first position to engage said pipe section proximate said deck.

19 3. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] The method of claim 2, further comprising retracting
20 said grabbers to a third position closer to said rotational axis than said first position prior
21 to rotating said grabbers about said rotational axis to said second position.

22 4. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] The method of claim 3, further comprising moving
23 said pipe section from said second position to a fourth position for delivery to said mast
24 using a scissor mechanism.

1 5. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] The invention of claim 4, further comprising using a
2 force parallel to said rotational axis to extend and retract said scissor mechanism and
3 said grabbers proximately perpendicular to said rotational axis.

4 6. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] The invention of claim 5, further providing using
5 hydraulic cylinders to provide said force to extend and retract said scissor mechanism.

6 7. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] In the j-laying of a pipeline from an offshore floating
7 vessel, the method for raising a pipe section from a horizontal position proximate the
8 deck of said floating vessel to alignment with a mast for being connected to the end of
9 the pipeline, comprising

10 providing a main support arm which is pivoted from proximately a horizontal
11 position to a position proximately parallel to said mast **about a pivot axis**,

12 providing a rotational axis mounted on said main support arm proximately
13 perpendicular to said **pivot** [rotational] axis,

14 providing grabbers mounted on said rotational axis,

15 extending said grabbers **radially away from said rotational axis** to a first position
16 a first distance from said rotational axis to allow said grabbers to engage said pipe
17 section proximate said deck,

18 rotating said grabbers about the center of said rotational axis from a position below
19 said rotational axis to a second position above said rotational axis,

20 pivoting said main support arm and said pipe section **about said pivot axis** to a
21 position proximately parallel to said mast, and

22 extending said pipe section away from said rotational axis to said mast.

1 8. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] The method of claim 7, further comprising extending
2 said grabbers from said second position to a fourth position for delivery of said pipe
3 section to said mast.

4 9. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] The method of claim 8, further comprising extending
5 said grabbers from said second position to said fourth position by a scissors
6 mechanism.

7 10. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] The invention of claim 9, further comprising using a
8 force parallel to said rotational axis to extend and retract said scissor mechanism.

9 11. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] The invention of claim 10, further providing using
10 hydraulic cylinders to provide said force to extend and retract said scissor mechanism.

11 12. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] A method of raising a pipe section from the deck of an
12 floating vessel to a mast for welding onto the end of a pipeline suspended from said
13 floating vessel for deploying said pipe section and the welded pipeline into the water as
14 a pipeline, comprising

15 providing a main support arm with a pivot axis proximate one end of said main
16 support arm,

17 providing a rotational axis along said main support arm proximately perpendicular
18 to said pivot,

19 mounting one or more grabbers on said rotational axis to engage said pipeline
20 section proximate said deck when said grabbers are in a first position,

21 rotating said one or more grabbers to a second position relative to said main
22 support arm,

23 pivoting said main support arm from a generally horizontal angle to a generally
24 vertical angle, and

1 extending said pipe section away from said rotational axis to said mast.

2 13. [ORIGINAL] The method of claim 12, further comprising moving said grabbers
3 to a third position closer to said rotational axis prior to rotating said one or more
4 grabbers to said second position.

5 14. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] The method of claim 13, further comprising moving
6 said pipe section from said first position to said third position using a scissor
7 mechanism.

8 15. [ORIGINAL] The method of claim 12, further comprising extending said
9 grabbers to a fourth position further from said rotational axis than said second position
10 while delivering said pipe section to said mast.

11 16. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] The method of claim 15, further comprising moving
12 said pipe section from said second position to said fourth position using a scissor
13 mechanism.

14 17. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] The invention of claim 16, further comprising using a
15 force parallel to said rotational axis to extend and retract said scissor mechanism.

16 18. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] The invention of claim 17, further providing using
17 hydraulic cylinders to provide said force to extend and retract said scissor mechanism.

18 19. [CANCELLED]

19 20. [CANCELLED]

20 21. [CANCELLED]